

# The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**



## RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

## Needed: WIAW Morse Code Reception Reports Announcement by David Crawford KF4VXJ

WIAW, the ARRL HQ's main station, could use reception reports of their Morse Code practice, and all bulletin, transmissions. These transmissions are for the amateur radio community's benefit. They are transmitted simultaneously on all HF bands, and on two meters on 147.555 MHz.

Morse code (CW) practice transmissions are sent starting at 9 am, 4 pm, 7 pm, and 10 pm on 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, and 28.0675 MHz.

ARRL Voice bulletins are transmitted in single sideband at 9:45 pm each weekday on 1.855, 3.990, 7.290, 14.290, 18.160, 21.390, 28.590 and 147.555 MHz.

ARRL bulletins are sent in Morse code starting at 5 pm, 8 pm, and 11 pm, using the same frequencies as the practice transmissions.

ARRL bulletins are sent in three digital modes starting at 6 and 9 pm, using RTTY (45.45-baud), PSK31, MFSK16 formats. The frequencies used are 3.5975, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095 kHz and 147.555 MHz. The formats are sent in a rotating format, so see <http://www.arrl.org/digital-transmissions> for details.

A proper reception report should contain: Your name, location, transceiver info, antenna info (include orientation if directional), date, and time. For each frequency heard, give it a *truthful* RST report with any comments desired. RST are the initials for Readability (0-5), Strength (0-9), and Tone (0-9).

Send reception reports to Joe Carcia electronically at [wlaw@arrl.org](mailto:wlaw@arrl.org). Further information on the WIAW transmissions are at <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw>.

### Next RARS Meeting: November 1st

7:30 PM: "Public Service Events" by John Snellen AI4RT. We will also have RARS officer elections and a VE test session (see page 3 for testing details).

## **RARS OFFICERS:**

### **PRESIDENT**

Karl Bowman

W4CHX

919.669.6068

[w4chx@arrrl.net](mailto:w4chx@arrrl.net)

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Candy Orr

KJ4OBQ

919-217-7734

[cjorr@bellsouth.com](mailto:cjorr@bellsouth.com)

### **SECRETARY**

Charles Swindell

WB4DCM

919.848.0410

[wb4dcm@arrrl.net](mailto:wb4dcm@arrrl.net)

### **TREASURER**

Greg Seamster

KE4PAX

919.859.0029

[ke4pax@arrrl.net](mailto:ke4pax@arrrl.net)



## **The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society**

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website ([www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)).



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## **The Exciter**

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org). Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS ([editor@rars.org](mailto:editor@rars.org))

### **RARS General Meeting**

*Date:* First Tuesday of each month

*Location:* First Alliance Church  
4400 Buffaloe Road  
Raleigh, NC

*Time:* People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

### **RARS Monthly Dinner**

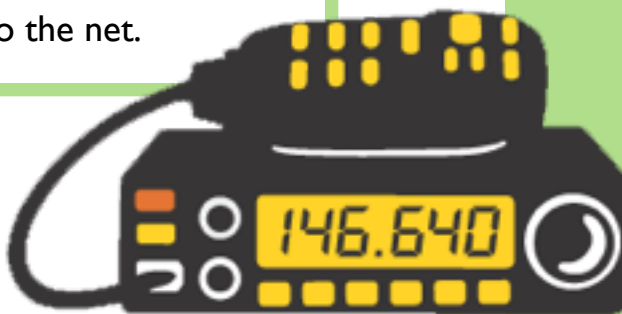
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) for details on the next dinner's location.

### **RARS Repeaters in Raleigh**

146.640 & 443.625 (88.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



## **VE TESTING**

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$14 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) for more information.

### November Birthdays

Joe	WA4GIR	11/2
Carroll	KD4JH	11/7
Rich	N4ENL	11/11
Autumn	KJ4DAY	11/13
Sherwood	KJ4DAP	11/13
Chris	N3JHR	11/14
Norm	KN4G	11/15
Joshua	KF4ZXK	11/15
Glenn	WA4LHE	11/16
Eric	N4GOP	11/18
Rolf	K8SL	11/19
Mark	WD4KSE	11/21
Donald	KJ4DNI	11/21
Rodney	AK4CH	11/23
Scott	KI4OCF	11/24
Terri	N4ZUD	11/25
Doug	N3LTV	11/26
John	WB8QJN	11/27

### Upcoming Hamfests

11/5- Stone Mountain Hamfest

11/6 Lawrenceville, GA

<http://www.stonemountainhamfest.com/>

11/5 South Florida Hamfest

Delray Beach, FL

<http://www.southfloridahamfest.org/>

11/12 Montgomery ARC Hamfest

Montgomery, AL

[www.w4ap.org](http://www.w4ap.org)

11/12 N. Central TX Emerg. Comm. Hamfestival

Azle, TX

<http://www.wc5c.org/>

11/20 JARSFEST

Benson, NC

<http://www.jars.net/index.html>

### September 2011

#### RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 450

Traffic: 40/30

Minutes: 550

Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets:

Checkins: 190

Minutes: 240

Sessions: 8

### New RARS Members

Dave Buster, Jr. WW4ELT

Mike Eckardt KK4ETS

Rob Miller KK4ETW

Michael North KK4EIB

Rich Quackenbush KK4DNF

Richard Rogers KJ4TTY

## Successful Tech Class: Expect Lots of New Voices on the Air By Virginia Enzor NC4VA, RARS Education Director

The seeds for a very successful RARS Technician License Preparation Class were planted with a phone call from Eric Weaver K4WVR inquiring if RARS could provide an entry level ham class at WakeMed Health and Hospitals. We jumped at the chance, and from there, dates were quickly established. The class, held on October 1 & 8 at WakeMed Cary Hospital, brimmed with 23 registrants from the hospital staff and general public after advertising!

Mike Murphy WA4BPJ provided instruction and Virginia Enzor NC4VA set up a radio station to put folks on the air during break time. First Contact Certificates were awarded to eight folks who overcame their “mic fright” to ragchew with Robert KG4BDX and others on the radio. Twenty folks attended both days and received Graduation Certificates. Class participants were given helpful handouts including literature from several radio manufacturers, band plan charts, grid square maps, CQ zone charts, WAS maps, a list of local nets and repeaters, information on local clubs and an ARRL brochure.



Above: Holly Trull (left) enjoys her first contact on the air with Virginia Enzor NC4VA.

Several folks were not able to take the exam but expected to do so at a later date. Of those that did take it on Oct. 8, 18 passed. Congratulations go to the following Techs who now have their call signs: Kenneth Barnhouse KK4ETP, Susan H. Berry KK4ETQ, Dean Caputo KK4ETR, Michael Eckardt KK4ETS, Allen Gambill KK4ETT, Marion Lasswell KK4EWA, Christina McCormick KK4ETU, John Maruca KK4ETV, Robert Miller KK4ETW, Ernie Mills Jr. KK4ETX, Leigh Mott KK4ETY, Roy Noble KK4ETZ, Thomas Prince KK4EUA, Mary H. Trull KK4EUB, Howard Whitworth KK4EUC, and Andrew Williams KK4EUD. A crisp “Salute” goes to Ahsen Salim KK4ETN and Dallas Sutton KK4ETO who not only passed their Tech exams but also their General!

Heading up the W5YIVE team were Joe and Liz White, WA4GIR and KO4CK, respectively. Other VEs who assisted included Larry Royster K4MWE, Julie Royster KI4OTM, Dennis Keith NC4DK, Philip Snyder NC4UK, and Virginia Enzor NC4VA.



When you hear these new hams on the air, please extend them a warm welcome and help them to enjoy the fun and friendship of their new found hobby!

Left: Instructor Mike Murphy WA4BPJ explains Frequency Modulation.

## **Minutes of the September 20, 2011 RARS Board Meeting**

### **Minutes by Charlie Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary**

Present: Candy Orr KJ4OBQ, Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Karl Bowman W4CHX, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Ken McEwen KI4OTO, Gary Pearce KN4AQ, and Charles Swindell WB4DCM.

Guests: None

Apologies and/or emailed reports: John AI4RT, Don WA4AVU, Courtney KI4HOS, Mary KG4OQA, Bob W4TTX, Jack N6UYB.

1. Call to order (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.
2. Approval of minutes (Karl W4CHX and Charles WB4DCM): The Minutes of the August 16, 2011 meeting of the RARS Board were approved.
3. Vice President's report (CJ KJ4OBQ): CJ advised that the October program will be the auction. The November program will be presented by John AI4RT and the subject will be public service. The December program will be the Christmas party. Mark Freeze WD4KDE will do the January program on ATV (and, that is Amateur Television, not all terrain vehicles). There was brief discussion about using more than one table to put the snacks on.
4. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): Greg advised that we currently have 268 members. That includes 26 new members. Sixty three members from last year have not renewed their membership.
5. Secretary's report (Charles WB4DCM): Charles thanked the Board for their input and help with the minutes.
6. Committee reports:
  - a. Public Service Director (John AI4RT): Based on his email communication, John AI4RT reported that he made a public service event presentation to OCRA on September 12th. It was a well-attended meeting with a lot of interest by its members. John AI4RT recommended they appoint a Public Service Coordinator who would be responsible for passing public service information to the OCRA members through their website, newsletter, and radio nets. The next public service event is on Saturday, September 24th: the MS Mud Run,

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which is being coordinated by Jack N6UYB. The RARS website should be checked for details and information about upcoming public service events.

- b. Public Information Officer (Gary KN4AQ): No report.
- c. Education Director (Virginia NC4VA): Virginia was not present. The next class is scheduled for October 1st and 8th. A large class is anticipated. Another class is anticipated prior to the holiday season.
- d. Field Day Chair (Bob W4TTX): Based on his telephone communication, Bob W4TTX had nothing to report.
- e. FM Repeater Chair (Gary KN4AQ): Gary KN4AQ reported that the 145.13 repeater needs some tweaking prior to installation. The antennas need repair or replacing. We can no longer climb the tower as that must be done by a properly licensed/authorized technician. Ken KI4OTO commented about intermodulation interference on the 146.64 repeater. He will look into a Par filter and have it ordered for installation.
- f. RARSFest Chair (John AI4RT): Based on his email communication, John AI4RT reported that the initial planning session for the 2012 RARSfest was held on September 19th. The next planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 24th at 7:00.
- g. Exciter Chair (Courtney KI4HOS): Based on her email communication, Courtney KI4HOS had nothing to report.
- h. Hospitality Chair (Mary Jo K4MJL): Mary Jo was not present. However, Chuck K4HF commented that our attendance is going up a little each month. He requested that Mary Jo be advised of any comments that are pertinent to the hospitality function. In addition, there was discussion about welcoming new members and visitors. President Karl W4CHX will do introductions of guests and new members prior to the beginning of the meeting. Members will be asked to please welcome the guests and new members.
- i. Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA): Based on her email communication, Mary KG4OQA indicated that she could not “attend but the nets are all going well. There are a lot of new stations checking in and excellent participation.”
- j. ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF): Chuck K4HF had no report. He did inquire if anyone had heard a rumor that the FCC is going to change the rules for operations in the 5 MHz band.

- k. At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU): Based on his email communication, Don WA4AVU reported that the APRS workshop is scheduled for October 15th. CJ KJ4OBQ is looking for a location to host the program. There is a good amount of interest in the topic, but it needs to be publicized to get more attendees. Email communications have been sent to the list, but another round will need to be sent closer to the meeting date. Don indicated that Hank K4HM did a nice job of posting information about the APRS workshop on the RARS website.
- l. At-Large Director (Ken KI4OTO): Ken KI4OTO reported that WCPE, the classical radio station, is holding an open house on October 15th. He is trying to arrange a tour for amateur radio operators.
- m. At-Large Director (Jack N6UYB): Not present.
- n. W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO): Not present.
- o. RARSVE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK): Not present.
- p. RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM): Hank K4HM reported that he is developing reports for ARES and Public Service chairmen. The reports will query the membership profiles to identify members who are interested in those activities. Jack N6UYB is handling the public service project this weekend in the absence of John AI4Rt and will receive copies of all online volunteers for the event. Hank is also working on a way to automatically recognize the newest 5 club members on the main page of the website. There has been no decision on when and how to provide access to the job description project. For now, the outgoing officers can still access their job descriptions online and should provide them when discussing their role with the incoming officers.

## 7. Old business:

- a. RARS White Sheet: Based on his email communication, John AI4RT reported that he has submitted his recommended changes and there may be other suggestions. He recommended that a RARS Board decision be reached on the content of the revised White Sheet and the information published subsequently. The “white sheet” is a document describing RARS organization and tax status. VP CJ KJ4OBQ will review and clean up the document and submit to the Board via email prior to the next Board meeting.
- b. Nominating Committee (Chuck K4HF): Recommendations for officer and board member nominees have been forwarded to Chuck K4HF. The committee is



awaiting the reply from those that have been offered positions. The Nominating Committee members are Chuck K4HF (chair), John AI4RT, Don WA4AVU, and Karl W4CHX.

8. New business:

- a. Planning for the holiday celebration at the December 2011 meeting (Karl W4CHX): Karl W4CHX commented that the Encore Singers are a charitable group and performing for us gives them the opportunity for a dress rehearsal. It is a win-win situation. Ken KI4OTO commented that we might be able to get the Raleigh Bell Ringers. At this point, it may be too late for a change for this December. Ken KI4OTO will determine the price and in January we will do a survey of members about the entertainment. The members will be asked to bring a snack to share at the December meeting.
- b. Club assistance to RARS members (Karl W4CHX): RARS received a letter from an older member needing help in getting back on the air. That raised the issue of providing assistance to our fellow members. While many of us are able to do tasks on the ground, we can no longer do climbing/roof jobs. We need young members that are willing and able to assist in such situations. There followed an extensive discussion about volunteering. Should we provide some type of incentive? Or, have a club requirement to do so many hours as a volunteer? CJ KJ4OBQ commented that at the meetings we could have members stand and advise what they have done. Ken KI4OTO suggested that we have the “Go Getter of the Month” award or, possibly a milestone award over a longer period of time. Karl W4CHX commented that we are talking about internal help for members. We need to be able to raise awareness of when an issue comes up.

9. Any other business:

CJ KJ4OBQ stated that we have developed a letter to be sent to newly licensed amateur radio operators in our area inviting them to join RARS. Hank stated that he will investigate ways to pull newly licensed ham information from one of the online databases. The club needs someone to volunteer to send out the introductory letters to new hams.

10. Board member's comments:

- a. Gary KN4AQ advised that a recent article in QST had commented very favorably upon him resulting in an increase in sales.

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- b. Chuck K4HF suggested that for programs we may wish to invite Bill N2COP, Section Manager, ARRL to speak. He can do SKYPE, if necessary. Next he advised that Marty W4MY has an acquaintance that can relate war stories involving amateur radio.

11. Adjournment (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

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## **Minutes of the October 4, 2011 RARS General Meeting**

### **Minutes by Charlie Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary**

1. Guests (pre-meeting announcement): Karl W4CHX introduced the guests attendees: Rich Quackenbush KK4DNF, Richard Rogers KJ4TTY, Scott Olson KJ4DAT, and Daniel Rothra.. He encouraged the RARS Members to greet and welcome our guests.
2. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:19 PM by Karl W4CHX. There were 79 members and guests present for the auction.
3. Approval of minutes: The Minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting on September 6, 2011 were approved.
4. Vice President's report (CJ KJ4OBQ): VP CJ KJ4OBQ announced that the program for November will be Public Service Events by John Snellen AI4RT and the Election of Officers. The December meeting program will be installation of officers and our Holiday Party.
5. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): Treasurer Greg KE4PAX reported that we have 273 members. If any RARS member has any questions, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX for further information.
6. Announcements (Karl W4CHX):
  - a. RARS Dinner: second Tuesday, (10/11/11), 6:30 PM, Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue (Hwy 70), monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (10/11) for any update information.

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- b. RARS Board meeting: third Tuesday (10/18/11), 7:00 PM, Triangle Radio Reading Service, 211 E. Six Forks Road, Suite 103; any RARS member is welcome to attend. For more information, contact any RARS officer.
- c. After meeting gathering: Depending on when the auction is finished, the after meeting gathering will be held at Applebee's, Six Forks and Wake Forest Roads (by the Costco)
- d. Upcoming hamfests: Winston-Salem October Swapfest, Winston-Salem, NC (10/8); LaGrange Hamfest, LaGrange, GA (10/8); First Sweetwater TN Hamfest, Sweetwater, TN (10/8); 46th Melbourne Hamfest & State Convention, Melbourne, FL (10/8-9); Gray Hamfest, Gray, TN (10/15); Hamfest Chattanooga, East Ridge, TN (10/22); Sumter Hamfest, Sumter, SC (10/22)
- e. Guests: Any additional guests were introduced: Rob Montague KK4EBJ, Cyrus Yunker KB2URA, and Mike Salim.
- f. Spectrum Defense Fund: As the US tries to increase revenue, one approach will be to auction off blocks of frequency spectrum. This is going to place pressure on amateur frequencies. Support the ARRL's Spectrum Defense Fund.

## 7. Reports from RARS Board members and others:

- a. Dick KD4ISC and Joe W4TTO presented a Traffic Handling Certificate to Jo Ann KK4ANZ.
- b. Stew X took the floor and advised that the Boy Scouts of America would be having the Jamboree on the Air and that volunteers were needed from the amateur community.
- c. Chuck K4HF Chair of the Nominating Committee announced the committee's recommendations for club officers as follows: President Karl Bowman W4CHX and Secretary Bob Chew KI4YXM. Board members for 1 year terms: Public Service Director John Snellen AI4RT, Public Information Officer Chuck De Court W3WZN, RARS 2012 Hamfest Chair John Snellen AI4RT, RARS Exciter Editor Courtney Enzor KI4HOS, RARS Net Manager Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA, At-large Director Don Downs WA4AVU, At-large Director Jack Foster N6UYB, At-large Director Ken McEwen KI4OTO, FM Repeater Chair Karl Bowman W4CHX, W4DW & W4RNC Trustee Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, ARRL Liaison Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Education Director Virginia

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Enzor NC4VA, and RARS Web Master Hank Montgomery K4HM. Committee chair persons as follows: RARS Hospitality Chair Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL, RARS 2012 Field Day Chair Bob Starkenburg W4TTX, and RARS Volunteer Exam Coordinators Liz & Joe White KO4CK & WA4GIR resp.

8. Any other business: There was no other business to come before the meeting.

9. Drawing: There was no drawing.

10. Program: RARS Auction, Cliff Broughton, W4FT, auctioneer. Cliff W4FT began the auction at 7:30 with 90 items to sell. He quickly reviewed the rules and procedures that would be used in the auction. Then the auction began. The auction progressed with a rapid pace and concluded at 10:05 PM.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM by Karl W4CHX

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# Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

## Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at [www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net](http://www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net).

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

## The Wake County ARES

**Net** meets Thursdays at 8:30 PM on the 146.640 repeater. We provide discussion training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out [www.wakeares.org](http://www.wakeares.org).

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM.

This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit [www.carolina440.net](http://www.carolina440.net).

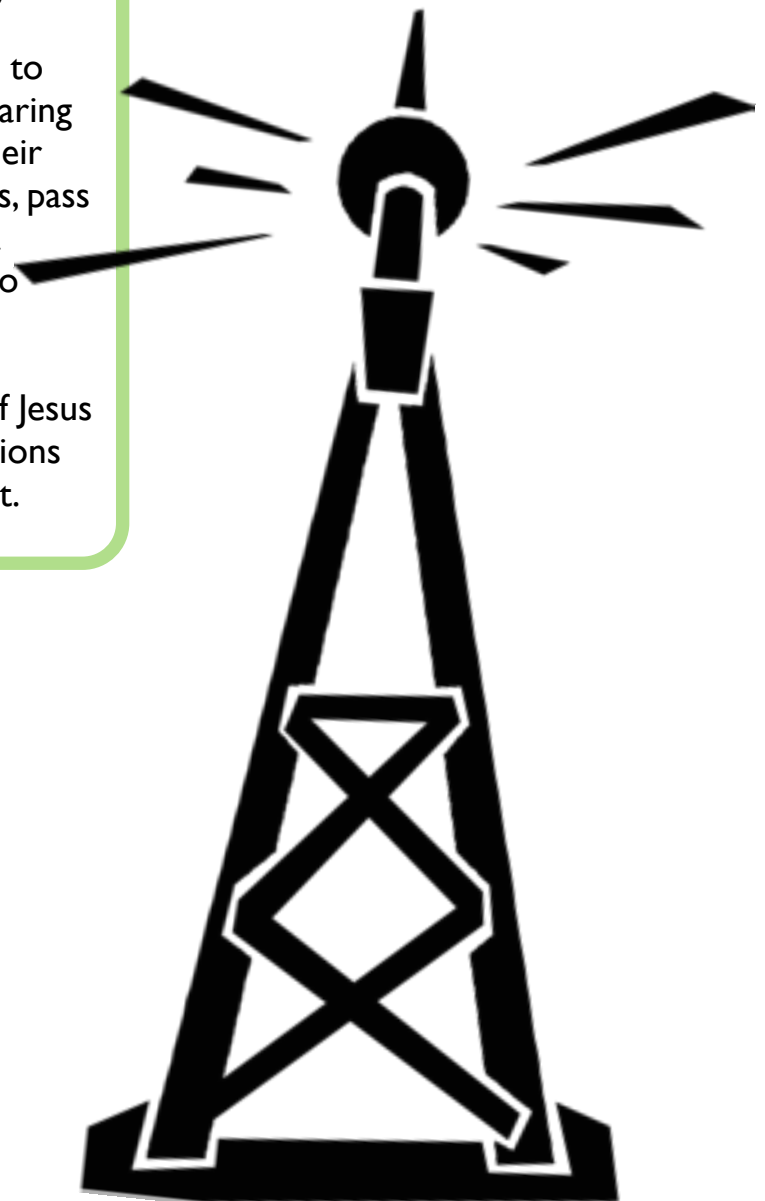
# Local Amateur Radio Nets

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 at 8:30 PM.

## **Apex Emergency Response Communications Net**

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to [www.voipwx.net](http://www.voipwx.net).





## RARS Classifieds

Looking to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php>.

RARS members are welcome to post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

*The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's*

**EXCITER**

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